

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 RSR-01 SSO-00 /124 W

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P R 230941 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4071

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6414

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, VN, VS

SUBJECT: JAPAN, DRV AND PRG

SUMMARY: ENTRY PERMIT APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR TWO DRV AND TWO PRG REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT JAPAN IN EARLY JUNE. WHILE PRESS DESCRIBES ONE OF TWO PRG APPLICANTS AS PRG AMBASSADOR TO CHILE, FONOFF STATES THAT TWO APPLICANTS CAN BE CONSIDERED " PRIVATE CITIZENS, DOMCILED IN HANOI, CARRYING DRV PASSPORTS". GOJ HAS APPLICATION UNDER " CAREFUL CONSIDERATION" AND EXPECTS DECISION WILL BE MADE NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

1. MAY 23 ASAHI FRONT- PAGED STORY STATING THAT JCP- AFFILIATED JAPAN- VIETNAM FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION AND JAPAN COMMITTEE FOR SUPPORTING VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS FOR VISIT BY TWO DRV AND TWO PRG REPRESENTATIVES. ASAHI STORY STATES THAT ONE OF PRG REPS IS PRG AMB TO CHILE, HA THANH LAM. ASAHI PREDICTS THAT GOJ WILL DECIDE TO CONSIDER PRG REPS AS / PERSONS CONNECTED WITH NORTH" AND WILL ADMIT ALL FOUR.

2. FONOFF, FIRST SEA DIVISION HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT
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APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY PERMITS HAVE BEEN FILED ON BEHALF OF FOUR INDIVIDUALS. STATED PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP WITH JAPAN AND TO DISCUSS URGENT QUESTION OF RECONSTRUCTION AID TO AREAS " UNDER CONTROL OF DRV AND PRG". OFFICIAL GAVE NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS STATED ON APPLICATIONS AS FOLLOWS: NGUYEN ZAN, OFFICER, VIETNAM- JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (VJFA); BUT VAN THANG, MEMBER VJFA AND INTERPRETER; HA THANH LAM, PROFESSOR; HONG HA, PROFESSOR. EMBOFF STATED THAT LAM AND HA HAD BEEN DESCRIBED IN PRESS AS BEING FROM PRG AND STATED THAT MAN BY NAME OF HA THANH LAM HAD LONG BEEN VC DIPLOMAT AND HAD IN LATE 1972 HEADED PRG INFORMATION OFFICE IN CHILE, WHICH EMBOFF BELIEVED HAD RECENTLY BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO PRG EMBASSY. OFFICIAL SAID THAT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAD ASKED SPONSORS WHETHER PROF LAM WAS THAT SAME MAN, AND THAT SPONSORS HAD REPLIED THAT THE ONLY THING THEY KNEW ABOUT LAM WAS THAT HE WAS PROFESSOR. OFFICIAL THEN REMARKED THAT LAM AND HA COULD BE CONSIDERED AS " PRIVATE CITIZENS, DOMICILED IN HANOI, CARRYING DRV PASSPORTS".

3. OFFICIAL SAID GOJ NOW HAS APPLICATION UNDER " CAREFUL CONSIDERATION" AND THAT, BECAUSE APPLICANTS WISH VISIT JAPAN IN EARLY JUNE, DECISION WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE NEXT WEEK. EMBOFF REMINDED OFFICIAL, WITH WHOM US POSITION ON PRG HAS BEEN DISCUSSED SEVERAL TIMES, THAT USG WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN GOJ' S DECISION.

4. VIETNAMESE EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH FONOFF FIRST SEA DIVISION CHIEF, MIYAKE, MAY 24 TO INQUIRE ABOUT FACTS AND PRESENT VIEWS. VIETNAMESE EMBOFF SAID HE BELIEVES THAT LAM IS PRG AMB TO CHILE AND THAT HONG HA IS ONLY A PEN NAME FOR OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIABLE FIGURE.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO06414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730551/aaaajomn.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <09-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980226
Subject: JAPAN, DRV AND PRG
TAGS: PFOR, JA, VN, VS
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SAIGON
SANTIAGO
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

